



Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions below. Make sure you read carefully and answer all parts of the questions.

### Lesson Review

#### Lesson 1

- SPECULATING** What power did the council of the plebs receive in 287 B.C.? Why do you think this power did not lead to its intended goal of equality under the law?
- EVALUATING** Why was the Law of Nations such a significant achievement of the Roman Republic?

#### Lesson 2

- EXPLAINING** Who was Marius, and what change did he make in how Roman soldiers were recruited?
- INTERPRETING** How did Augustus change the system for governing Roman provinces? What were the effects?

#### Lesson 3

- ANALYZING** When was the golden age of Latin literature, and how did its writers differ in their style and outlook?
- THEORIZING** What did the custom of marrying off girls very young reflect about Roman society?

### 21st Century Skills

- IDENTIFYING PERSPECTIVES AND DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS** People took steps to salvage the Roman Republic but actually helped lead to its end. What are two examples of actions that were intended to save the republic but had the opposite effect?
- CREATE AND ANALYZE ARGUMENTS AND DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Which form of government do you think is preferable, a republic or an empire? Why?
- UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG EVENTS** What was the Pax Romana? How did the emperors keep people in the provinces from rebelling?

### Exploring the Essential Questions

- SYNTHESIZING** With a small group, create a word web of key aspects of the republic and the empire. Start with one

circle labeled "Roman Republic" and one labeled "Roman Empire." For each circle, draw four circles beyond it. Label them "politics," "society," "culture," and "religion." Add circles with the ideas and individuals involved. Fill another ring of circles beyond these with details. Add lines connecting circles where aspects of the republic overlap those of the empire. You may include artwork, maps, and primary sources in your web.

### DBQ Analyzing Historical Documents

Use the document to answer the following questions.

In A.D. 64, a fire swept through Rome, burning for nearly a week and destroying much of the city. Years later, the historian Tacitus described the fire in his *Annals*.

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

"A disaster followed, whether accidental or treacherously [betraying trust] contrived by the emperor [Nero], is uncertain, as authors have given both accounts, worse, however, and more dreadful than any which have ever happened to this city by the violence of fire... And no one dared to stop the mischief, because of incessant [constant] menaces from a number of persons who forbade the extinguishing of the flames, because again others openly hurled brands [burning torches], and kept shouting that there was one who gave them authority."

—Tacitus, from *The Annals*

- EXAMINING** How does Tacitus show his objectivity in this account of the fire?
- MAKING INFERENCES** Why might people claim that Nero ordered them to stop others from putting out the fire?

### Extended-Response Question

- INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY** If you lived roughly 2,000 years ago and your country was conquered by the Romans, what would be the pluses and minuses of Roman rule? Research at least one Roman province to find out more about what life was like for native peoples.

### Need Extra Help?

| If You've Missed Question | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Go to page                | 129 | 130 | 134 | 137 | 142 | 143 | 135 | 127 | 139 | 128 | 146 | 139 | 128 |

# The Byzantine Empire and Emerging Europe

A.D. 50–800

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS** • How can religion impact a culture?  
• What factors lead to the rise and fall of empires?



## networks

There's More Online! about the Byzantine Empire and emerging Europe.

## CHAPTER 8

### Lesson 1

The First Christians

### Lesson 2

Decline and Fall of Rome

### Lesson 3

The Early Christian Church

### Lesson 4

The Age of Charlemagne

### Lesson 5

The Byzantine Empire

## The Story Matters...

On Christmas Day in the year 800, as the Frankish ruler Charlemagne attended mass in St. Peter's in Rome, Pope Leo III placed a crown on his head and those assembled hailed him as "emperor of the Romans." The spiritual leader of Christendom had acknowledged a Germanic king as the heir to the Roman Empire. Charlemagne's coronation symbolized the joining of Roman, Christian, and Germanic cultures, the three elements that were combined to form the new medieval civilization emerging in Europe.

◀ Created in twelfth-century France, this stained glass image expresses Charlemagne's identity as the ideal Christian ruler. The pictorial glass of Gothic cathedrals served an important function for a largely illiterate public.

PHOTO: French School/The Bridgeman Art Library/Getty Images.



# Place and Time: Europe A.D. 50–800

Between A.D. 600 and 800, Christianity became the dominant religion of Western Europe. When the Christian faith appeared in the Roman province of Judaea around A.D. 50, Rome's power was at its height. Persecuted sporadically during its first centuries, Christianity grew until by A.D. 391, it became the state religion of the Roman Empire. Arising within the Roman world, the Christian faith was spread later by missionaries to peoples outside the empire's borders. As Christianity grew, the Church developed a governing structure based on the authority of bishops and the pope in Rome. Other Christian institutions arising during these early centuries were the religious communities known as monasteries.

## Step Into the Place

Read the quotations and look at the information presented on the map.



**Analyzing Historical Documents** In what different ways was the authority of the Church spread during this period?

### PRIMARY SOURCE

“[The seventh-century Irish missionary Aidan] always traveled on foot unless compelled by necessity to ride; and whatever people he met on his walks, whether high or low, he stopped and spoke to them. If they were heathen, he urged them to be baptized; and if they were Christians, he strengthened their faith. . . . He cultivated peace and love, purity and humility; he was above anger and greed, and despised pride and conceit. . . . He used his priestly authority to check the proud and powerful.”

—Bede, from *A History of the English Church and People*, A.D. 731–732



### PRIMARY SOURCE

“No war ever undertaken by the Frank[s] [under Charlemagne] was carried on with such persistence and bitterness, or cost so much labor, because the Saxons, like almost all the tribes of Germany, were a fierce people, given to the worship of devils, and hostile to our religion. . . . Accordingly war was begun against them, and was waged for thirty-three successive years with great fury. . . . They were sometimes so much weakened and reduced that they promised to renounce the worship of devils, and adopt Christianity, but they were no less ready to violate these terms than prompt to accept them. . . .”

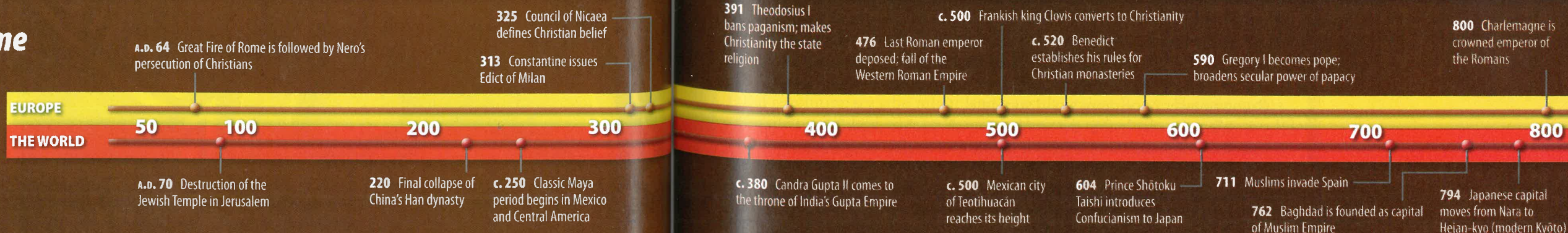
—Einhard, from *Life of Charlemagne*, A.D. 830–833



## Step Into the Time

### Synthesizing Information

Select three events from the time line and show how they strengthened the power of the Christian Church during this period.



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There's More Online!

- MAP Explore the interactive version of this map on Networks.
- TIME LINE Explore the interactive version of the time line on Networks.





- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Constantine
- ✓ IMAGE Early Christian Catacombs
- ✓ IMAGE Mural from a Jewish Synagogue in the Roman City of Dura-Europos
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ MAP Spread of Christianity, A.D. 325
- ✓ MAP World Religions Today
- ✓ PRIMARY SOURCE Christianity in Rome
- ✓ VIDEO The First Christians

## Reading HELPDESK



## Academic Vocabulary

- transformation
- structure

## Content Vocabulary

- procurator
- clergy
- laity

## TAKING NOTES:

## Key Ideas and Details

**Contrasting** As you read, use a table like the one below to contrast the Roman state religion with Christianity.

| Roman State Religion | Christianity |
|----------------------|--------------|
|                      |              |
|                      |              |
|                      |              |

## LESSON 1

## The First Christians

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How can religion impact a culture?

## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

A new civilization came into being in western Europe after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. This new civilization—European civilization—was formed by the coming together of three major elements: the Germanic people who moved in and settled the Western Roman Empire, the legacy of the Romans, and the Christian Church.

## Judaism in the Roman Empire

**GUIDING QUESTION** How did a new movement within Judaism lead to the development of a new faith?

In the period immediately preceding the Roman conquest of 63 B.C., the Jewish people enjoyed independence. By A.D. 6, however, Judaea (joo • DEE • uh), which embraced the lands of the old Jewish kingdom of Judah, had been made a Roman province placed under the direction of an official called a **procurator**.

Unrest was widespread in Judaea, but the Jews differed among themselves about Roman rule. The priestly Sadducees (SA • juh • SEEZ) probably favored cooperation with Rome. The scholarly Pharisees (FAR • uh • SEEZ) held that close observance of religious law would protect them from Roman influences. The Essenes lived apart from society, sharing goods in common. Like many other Jews, they waited for God to save Israel from oppression. The Zealots, however, called for the violent overthrow of Roman rule. In fact, a Jewish revolt began in A.D. 66, only to be crushed by the Romans four years later. The Jewish temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, and Roman power once more stood supreme.

A few decades before the revolt, a Jewish teacher named Jesus traveled and preached throughout Judaea and neighboring Galilee. These teachings began a new movement within Judaism.

## ✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Summarizing** How did the Jews differ about how to respond to Roman rule?



◀ Early Christians were forced to worship in catacombs such as this one in Salzburg, Austria.

## ▶ CRITICAL THINKING

**Drawing Conclusions** Why did early Christians worship in catacombs?

## The Rise of Christianity

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** What are the beliefs that define Christianity?

How did Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire and what were the consequences?

After reports spread that Jesus had overcome death, the movement gained additional support throughout Judaea and Galilee and led to the development of a new faith that became known as Christianity.

## The Teachings of Jesus

Jesus believed that his mission was to complete the salvation that God had promised to Israel throughout its history. He stated: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Jesus, then, adhered to the entire Law and emphasized those elements that called for the **transformation** of the inner person: "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

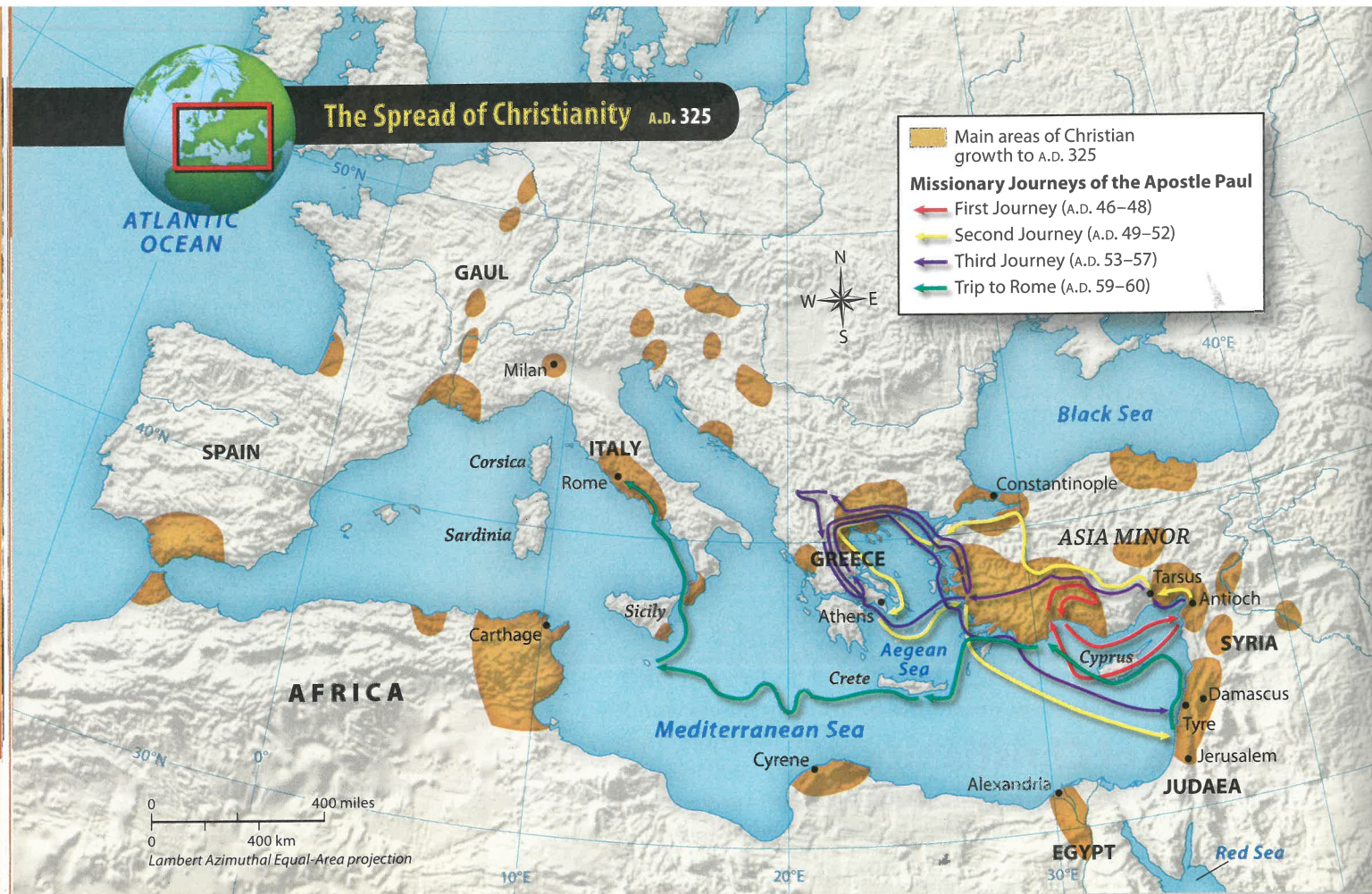
Citing verses from the Hebrew Bible, Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus shared these and related ethical concepts with other prominent Jewish teachers. He gave them particularly eloquent and influential expression. The concepts—humility, charity, and love toward others—later shaped the value system of Western civilization.

Jesus's preaching stirred controversy. Some people saw him as a potential revolutionary who might lead a revolt against Rome. His opponents finally turned him over to Roman authorities. The procurator Pontius Pilate ordered Jesus's crucifixion. After the death of Jesus, his followers proclaimed that he had risen from death and had appeared to them. They believed Jesus to be the Messiah (anointed one), the long-expected deliverer who would save Israel from its foes and inaugurate an age of peace, prosperity, and monotheism.

**procurator** in the Roman Empire, an official in charge of a province

**transformation** conversion; change in character or condition





### GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

Christianity had begun to spread throughout Europe and the Mediterranean by A.D. 325.

- HUMAN SYSTEMS** What cities did Paul pass through on his second journey?
- ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY** Based on the map, how do you think Christianity was spread?

### Christianity Spreads Through the Empire

Prominent apostles, or leaders, arose in early Christianity. One was Simon Peter, a Jewish fisherman who had become a follower of Jesus during Jesus's lifetime. Peter was recognized as the leader of the apostles. Another major apostle was Paul, a highly educated Jewish Roman citizen who joined the movement later. Paul took the message of Jesus to Gentiles—non-Jews—as well as to Jews. He founded Christian communities in Asia Minor and along the shores of the Aegean Sea.

At the center of Paul's message was the belief that Jesus was the Savior, the Son of God who had come to Earth to save humanity. Paul taught that Jesus's death made up for the sins of all humans. By accepting Jesus as Christ (from *Christos*, the Greek term for Messiah) and Savior, people could be saved from sin and reconciled to God.

The teachings of early Christianity were passed on orally through preaching. Written materials also appeared, however. Paul and other followers of Jesus had written letters, or epistles, outlining Christian beliefs for communities they had helped found around the eastern Mediterranean. Also, some of Jesus's disciples, or followers, may have preserved some of the sayings of Jesus in writing. Later, between A.D. 40 and A.D. 100, these accounts became the basis of the written Gospels—the “good news” concerning Jesus. These writings give a record of Jesus' life and teachings, and they form the core of the New Testament, the second part of the Christian Bible.

By A.D. 100, Christian churches had been established in most of the major cities of the eastern empire and in some places in the western part of the empire. Most early Christians came from the Jews and the

Greek-speaking populations of the east. In the second and third centuries, however, an increasing number of followers were Latin-speaking people.

### Roman Persecution

The basic values of Christianity differed markedly from those of the Greco-Roman world. In spite of that, the Romans at first paid little attention to the Christians, whom they regarded as simply another sect of Judaism. However, the Roman attitude toward Christianity began to change.

The Romans tolerated the religions of other peoples unless these religions threatened public order or public morals. Many Romans came to view Christians as harmful to the Roman state because Christians refused to worship the state gods and emperors. The Romans saw the Christians' refusal to do so as an act of treason, punishable by death. The Christians, however, believed there was only one God. To them, the worship of state gods and the emperors meant worshiping false gods and endangering their own salvation. Jews, who also refrained from such worship, had been allowed to follow “the laws of their fathers,” but this exemption was not extended to the new religion.

The Roman government began persecuting (harassing to cause suffering) Christians during the reign of Nero (A.D. 54–68). The emperor blamed the Christians for the fire that destroyed much of Rome and subjected them to cruel deaths. In contrast, in the second century, persecution of Christians diminished. By A.D. 180, Christians still represented a small minority, but one of considerable strength.

### Roman Empire Adopts Christianity

The occasional persecution of Christians by the Romans in the first and second centuries had not stopped the growth of Christianity. It had, in fact, served to strengthen Christianity in the second and third centuries by forcing it to become more organized. Missionaries used the Roman language and organizational structures to spread their message. Fear of persecution meant that only the most committed would follow the faith.

Crucial to this change was the emerging role of the bishops, who began to assume more control over church communities. The Christian church was creating a new **structure** in which the **clergy**, or church leaders, had distinct functions separate from the **laity**, or the regular church members.

Christianity grew quickly in the first century. It took root in the second century, and by the third century, it had spread widely. Why was Christianity able to attract and maintain so many followers?

First, the Christian message had much to offer the Roman world. The Roman state-based religion was impersonal and existed for the good of Rome. Christianity was personal and offered salvation and eternal life to individuals. Christianity gave life a meaning and purpose beyond the simple material things of everyday reality.



▲ Relief carving of the apostle Peter being taken prisoner by Roman authorities

### CRITICAL THINKING

Describing According to the Christian tradition, who was Peter?

**structure** an arrangement in a definite pattern of organization

**clergy** church leaders

**laity** regular church members



## BIOGRAPHY



### Constantine (c. A.D. 280–337)

After Diocletian abdicated the throne, he did not pick Constantine to be the next emperor. In response, Constantine engaged in a civil war to win the throne. He attributed his eventual success to his belief in Christianity. In 313 Constantine and the Eastern emperor Licinius issued the Edict of Milan, which granted freedom of religion to Christians and all others within the Roman Empire. Under the rule of Constantine, Christianity began to grow into a world religion.

#### ► CRITICAL THINKING

**Making Inferences** Why might it have been valuable to Constantine to claim divine aid in his victory over his rival?

Second, Christianity seemed familiar. It was viewed by some as similar to other mystery religions, offering immortality as the result of the sacrificial death of a savior-god. At the same time, it offered more than the other mystery religions did. Jesus had been a human figure to whom it was easy to relate. Moreover, Christianity did not require painful or expensive initiation rites as other mystery religions did. Initiation was by baptism—a purification by water—by which one entered into the Christian community.

Finally, Christianity fulfilled the human need to belong. Christians formed communities bound to one another. In these communities, people could express their love by helping one another and offering assistance to the poor and the sick. Christianity satisfied the need to belong in a way that the huge Roman Empire could never provide.

Christianity proved attractive to all classes, but especially to the poor and powerless. Eternal life is promised to all—rich, poor, aristocrats, slaves, men, and women. As Paul stated in his letters to the Colossians and the Galatians, “And [you] have put on the new self. . . . Here there is no Greek or Jew . . . barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” Although Christianity did not call for revolution, it stressed a sense of spiritual equality for all people—a revolutionary idea at the time.

The Christian Church became more organized in the third century. Some emperors began new persecutions, but their schemes failed. The last great persecution was by Diocletian (dy • uh • KLEE • shuhn) at the beginning of the fourth century. Even he had to admit, however, what had become obvious in the course of the third century: Christianity and its followers were too strong to be blotted out by force.

In the fourth century, Christianity prospered as never before when Constantine became the first Christian emperor. His support for Christianity supposedly began in 312, when his army was about to fight a crucial battle. According to the traditional story, before the battle, Constantine saw a vision of the Christian cross with the words, “In this sign you shall conquer.” Having won the battle, the story goes, Constantine was convinced of the power of the Christian God. Although he was not baptized until the end of his life, in 313 Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, which proclaimed official tolerance of Christianity. Then, under Theodosius the Great, who ruled from 378 to 395, the Romans adopted Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire.

#### ✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Analyzing** Prior to the adoption of Christianity in the empire, why did the Romans charge some Christians with treason?

## LESSON 1 REVIEW



### Reviewing Vocabulary

**1. Making Inferences** How do you think the division of the Christian church into clergy and laity helped them spread their beliefs?

### Using Your Notes

**2. Contrasting** Use your notes to contrast the differences between the Roman state religion and Christianity.

### Answering the Guiding Questions

**3. Drawing Conclusions** How did a new movement within Judaism lead to the development of a new faith?

**4. Identifying** What are the beliefs that define Christianity?

**5. Assessing** How did Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire, and what were the consequences?

### Writing Activity

**6. INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY** Research why Romans thought Christianity was dangerous to their empire. Compare these arguments to the doctrine and practices of Christians at that time. Present your findings in an essay.

## networks

### There's More Online!

- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Diocletian
- ✓ GRAPHIC ORGANIZER Succession of Roman Emperors
- ✓ IMAGE Constantine's Arch
- ✓ IMAGE The Tetrarchs
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ MAP Migrations Into the Roman Empire, A.D. 200–500
- ✓ MAP The Roman Empire Under the Tetrarchs, A.D. 293–311
- ✓ VIDEO Decline and Fall of Rome



## LESSON 2

# Decline and Fall of Rome

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS** • How can religion impact a culture?  
• What factors lead to the rise and fall of empires?

## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

In A.D. 410, the Visigoths sacked Rome. After ruling the Mediterranean world for hundreds of years, the Roman Empire in the west declined and then fell. The Germanic peoples were only one factor in Rome's collapse.

## The Decline of Rome

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** What political factors led to the decline of the Roman Empire?  
How did economic and social reforms by Diocletian and Constantine affect the Roman Empire?

During the reign of Marcus Aurelius, the last of the five “good emperors,” a number of catastrophes struck Rome. To many Romans, these natural disasters seemed to portend an ominous future for Rome. New problems arose soon after the death of Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 180. A period of conflict, confusion, and civil war followed.

### Problems and Upheavals

In the course of the third century, the Roman Empire came near collapse. Following a series of civil wars, a **military** government under the Severan rulers restored order. Septimius Severus told his sons “enrich the soldiers, and ignore everyone else,” setting the tone for the new dynasty. After the Severan rulers there was more disorder. For almost 50 years, from 235 to 284, the Roman throne was occupied by whomever had the military strength to seize it. During this period, there were 22 emperors, most of whom died violently.

At the same time, the empire was troubled by a series of invasions, no doubt encouraged by the internal turmoil. In the east, the Sassanid (suh • SAH • nuhd) Persians made inroads into Roman territory. Germanic tribes poured into the Balkans, Gaul, and Spain.

Invasions, civil wars, and plague almost caused an economic **collapse** in the third century. A labor shortage created by **plague**—an epidemic disease—affected both military recruiting and the economy. There was a decline in trade and small industry. Farm production declined as crops were ravaged by invaders or the defending Roman army. Armies were needed more than ever, but

## Reading HELPDESK



### Academic Vocabulary

- military
- collapse

### Content Vocabulary

- plague
- inflation

### TAKING NOTES:

#### Key Ideas and Details

#### Determining Cause and Effect

As you read, use a table like the one below to describe the events that led to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.

| Decline | Fall |
|---------|------|
|         |      |
|         |      |
|         |      |

PHOTO: ©Bettmann/CORBIS

PHOTO: (top) iStockphoto Collection/Corbis, Author's Image/PunchStock, ©Peter Barritt/SuperStock



financial strains made it difficult to enlist and pay more soldiers. By the mid-third century, the state had to hire Germans to fight. These soldiers did not understand Roman traditions and had little loyalty to either the empire or the emperors.

### Reforms by Diocletian and Constantine

At the end of the third and the beginning of the fourth centuries, the Roman Empire gained a new lease on life through the efforts of two emperors, Diocletian and Constantine. The empire changed into a new state: the Late Roman Empire, which included a new governmental structure, a rigid economic and social system, and a new state religion—Christianity.

Believing that the empire had grown too large for a single ruler, Diocletian, who ruled from 284 to 305, divided it into four units known as prefectures. The entire Roman Empire was divided into two parts, east and west. Each part contained two prefectures, ruled by two leaders. This new system was called the tetrarchy (rule by four). Despite the appearance of four-man rule, Diocletian's military power enabled him to hold ultimate authority.

Constantine, who ruled from 306 to 337, continued and even expanded the policies of Diocletian. Constantine's biggest project was the construction of a new capital city in the east, on the site of the Greek city of Byzantium on the shores of the Bosphorus. The city, eventually renamed Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey), was developed for defensive reasons. Its strategic location provided protection of the eastern frontier. Constantinople, the "New Rome," became the center of the Eastern Roman Empire and one of the great cities of the world. Constantine enriched the city with a forum, large palaces, and a vast amphitheater.

Diocletian's and Constantine's political and military reforms enlarged two institutions—the civil service and the army. A hierarchy of officials exercised control at the various levels of government. The army was enlarged to 500,000 men, including German units. Mobile units could be quickly moved to support frontier troops where the borders were threatened.

The expansion of the bureaucracy and the army created a demand for more revenues. The population was not growing, however, so the tax base could not pay for them. Roman money, or currency, began to lose value.

Both rulers devised new economic and social policies to deal with these financial burdens. Like their political policies, the new economic and social policies were all based on coercion and loss of individual freedom. To fight **inflation**, Diocletian issued a price edict in 301 that set wage and price controls for the empire. Despite severe penalties, it failed to work.

To ensure the tax base and to keep the empire going despite the labor shortage, the emperors issued edicts forcing workers to remain in their

vocations. Hence, jobs, such as bakers and shippers, became hereditary. The fortunes of free farmers also declined. Soon they found themselves bound to the land by landowners, who took advantage of depressed conditions to enlarge their estates.

In general, the economic and social policies of Diocletian and Constantine were based on control and coercion. Although temporarily successful, such policies in the long run stifled the very vitality the Late Empire needed to revive its sagging fortunes.

#### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Determining Cause and Effect** What were the effects of the political and military reforms of Diocletian and Constantine?

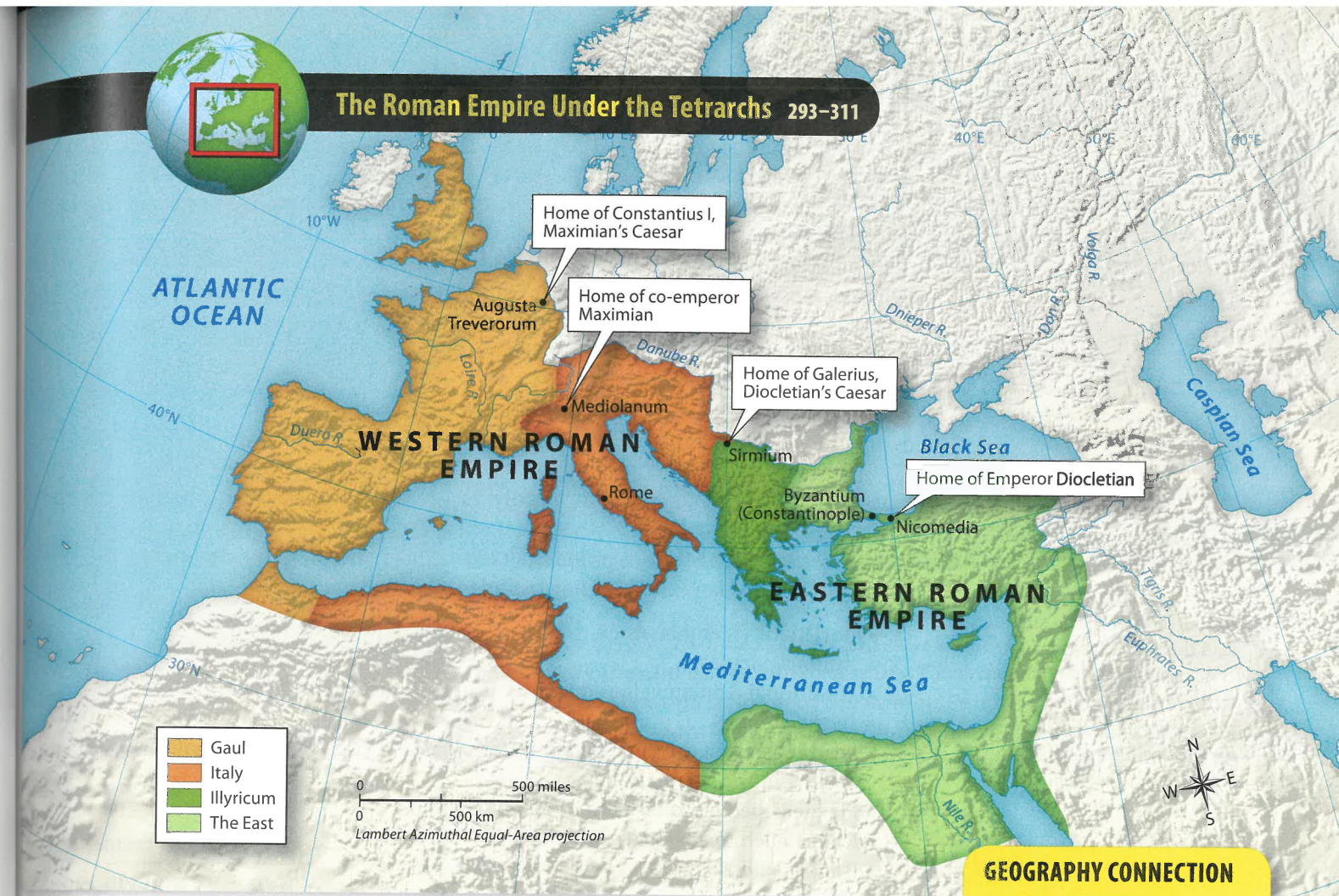
**military** relating to the armed forces or to soldiers, arms, or war

**collapse** to break down completely; to suddenly lose force or effectiveness

**plague** an epidemic disease

**inflation** a rapid increase in prices

▼ The Arch of Constantine in the Forum in Rome was erected by Constantine to commemorate his victory at the Battle of Milvian Bridge in A.D. 312



#### GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

Diocletian divided the Roman Empire into four prefectures.

- 1 THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS** How would establishing four different capitals help protect Rome?
- 2 HUMAN SYSTEMS** Compare and contrast the territories controlled by the emperors and the caesars.

## The End of the Western Roman Empire

**GUIDING QUESTION** How did the migration of Germanic tribes contribute to the fall of the Roman Empire?

Constantine had reunited the Roman Empire and restored a semblance of order. After his death, however, the empire continued to divide into western and eastern parts as fighting erupted on a regular basis between elements of the Roman army backing the claims of rival emperors. By 395, the western and eastern parts of the empire became virtually two independent states. In the course of the fifth century, the empire in the east remained intact under the Roman emperor in Constantinople. At the same time, the administrative structure of the empire in the west collapsed and was replaced by an assortment of Germanic kingdoms. The process was a gradual one, beginning with the movement of Germans into the empire.

Although the Romans had established a series of political frontiers along the Rhine and Danube Rivers, Romans and Germans often came into contact across these boundaries. Until the fourth century, the empire had proved capable of absorbing these people without harm to its political structure. In the late fourth century, the Germanic tribes came under new pressure when the Huns, a fierce tribe of nomads from the steppes of Asia, moved into the Black Sea region, possibly attracted by the riches of the empire. One of the groups displaced by the Huns was the Visigoths. They moved south and west, crossed the Danube into Roman territory, and became Roman allies. But the Visigoths soon revolted. The Roman attempt to stop them at Adrianople in 378 led to a crushing defeat for Rome.



## Thinking Like a HISTORIAN

### Historiography

Why did Rome decline and fall? Writing in the rationalist, skeptical eighteenth century, the historian Edward Gibbon attributed the decline of Rome to “the triumph of barbarism and religion.” Other historians, both before and after Gibbon, have offered a wide variety of other causes for the fall of the Roman Empire. As historians write history, they critically examine a variety of sources, which can still lead them to different conclusions. Use the Internet to find reliable sources presenting different theories for the decline and fall of Rome. Identify which theories seem the most plausible to you.

Increasing numbers of Germans now crossed the frontiers. In 410 the Visigoths sacked Rome. The Vandals poured into southern Spain and Africa, and the Visigoths moved into Spain and Gaul. The Vandals crossed into Italy from North Africa and ravaged Rome again in 455. By the middle of the fifth century, the western provinces of the Roman Empire had been taken over by Germanic peoples who were in the process of creating independent kingdoms. At the same time, a semblance of imperial authority remained in Rome. The real power behind the throne, however, tended to rest in the hands of important military officials known as Masters of the Soldiers. These military commanders controlled the government and dominated the imperial court.

In 476 Odoacer, a new Master of the Soldiers, himself of German origin, deposed the Roman emperor, the boy Romulus Augustulus. To many historians, the deposition of Romulus signaled the end of the Roman Empire in the west. Of course, this is only a symbolic date because much of direct imperial rule had already been lost in the course of the fifth century.

Many theories have been proposed by historians to explain the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. They include the following:

- Christianity’s emphasis on a spiritual kingdom weakened Roman military virtues.
- Traditional Roman values declined as non-Italians gained prominence in the empire.
- Lead poisoning through leaden water pipes and cups caused a mental decline in the population.
- Plague wiped out one-tenth of the population.
- Rome failed to advance technologically due to slavery.
- Rome could not create a workable political system.

There may be an element of truth in each of these theories, but history is an intricate web of relationships, causes, and effects. No single explanation can sufficiently explain the fall of a great empire. The Roman army in the west was not able to fend off the hordes of people moving into Italy and Gaul, and the Western Roman Empire collapsed. A series of German kingdoms replaced the Western Roman Empire. In contrast, the Eastern Roman Empire, which would survive for another thousand years, was able to withstand invaders.

### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Understanding Historical Interpretation** Why do many historians date the fall of the Roman Empire at 476?

## LESSON 2 REVIEW

### Reviewing Vocabulary

**1. Making Inferences** How did plague help lead to an economic collapse in the third century?

### Using Your Notes

**2. Determining Cause and Effect** Use your notes to identify the causes of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.

### Answering the Guiding Questions

**3. Identifying Central Issues** What political factors led to the decline of the Roman Empire?

**4. Drawing Conclusions** How did economic and social reforms by Diocletian and Constantine affect the Roman Empire?

**5. Making Connections** How did the migrations of Germanic tribes contribute to the fall of the Roman Empire?

### Writing Activity

**6. ARGUMENT** Look at the theories that explain the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. Choose one and write an essay explaining why you think this reason was or was not a significant factor in the fall of the Roman Empire.

## networks

### There’s More Online!

- ✓ IMAGE Abbey at Whitby
- ✓ IMAGE Franks Casket
- ✓ IMAGE Illuminated Manuscript
- ✓ IMAGE Layout of a Monastery
- ✓ IMAGE Monastery in Northumberland
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ MAP Early Centers of Christianity and Monastic Learning
- ✓ PRIMARY SOURCE Gregory I Describing the Role of the Pope
- ✓ SLIDE SHOW The Role of Monks
- ✓ VIDEO The Early Christian Church

## Reading HELPDESK

### Academic Vocabulary

- pursue • conversion

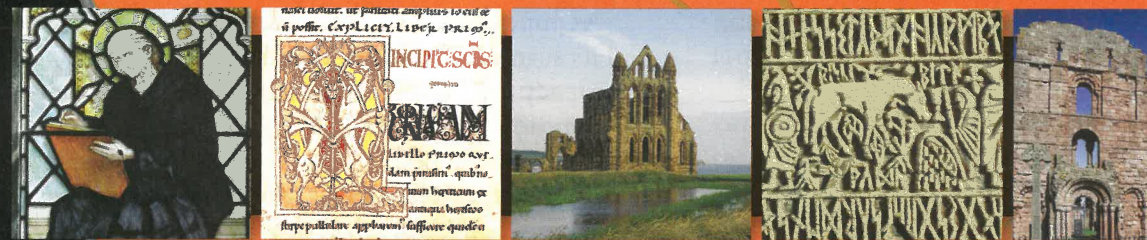
### Content Vocabulary

- bishopric • monk
- monasticism
- missionary
- nun • abbess

### TAKING NOTES:

#### Key Ideas and Details

**Organizing** As you read, use a Venn diagram like the one below to identify similarities and differences between monks and nuns.



## LESSON 3

# The Early Christian Church

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION How can religion impact a culture?

## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

*By the end of the fourth century, Christianity had become the supreme religion of the Roman Empire. As the official Roman state fell apart, the Church played an increasingly important role in the growth of the new European civilization.*

## Organization of the Church

### GUIDING QUESTION How was the Christian Church organized by the fourth century?

By the fourth century, the Christian Church had developed a system of government. Priests led local Christian communities called parishes. These priests also met the social needs of their parishes, as the church often was the center of village social life. A group of parishes was headed by a bishop, whose area of authority was called a **bishopric**, or diocese, whose center was usually in a city. The bishoprics of each Roman province were joined together under the direction of an archbishop.

The bishops of four great cities—Rome, Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Antioch—held positions of special power in church affairs. The churches in these cities all believed that they had been founded by the original apostles sent out by Jesus. Soon, however, one of them—the bishop of Rome—claimed even more, that he was the leader of the western Christian church. According to church tradition, Jesus had given the keys to the kingdom of heaven to Peter, who was considered the chief apostle and the first bishop of Rome. Later bishops of Rome were viewed as Peter’s successors. They came to be known as popes (from the Latin word *papa*, meaning “father”) of the Catholic Church.

Western Christians came to accept the pope as head of the church in the fourth and fifth centuries, but people did not agree on how much power the pope should have. In the sixth century, a strong pope, Gregory I, known as Gregory the Great, strengthened the power of the papacy and the Roman Catholic Church.



**bishopric** a group of Christian communities, or parishes, under the authority of a bishop

As pope, Gregory I, who reigned from 590 to 604, took control of Rome and its surrounding territories (later called the Papal States), thus giving the papacy a source of political power. Gregory also extended papal authority over the Christian church in the west. He was especially active in converting the non-Christian peoples of Germanic Europe to Christianity. His chief instrument was the monastic movement.

#### ✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Analyzing** How did Pope Gregory I increase the power of the Roman Catholic Church?

## The Monks and Their Missions

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** What role did monks and monasteries play in the early Catholic Church? How did the Catholic Church affect the emerging medieval European civilization?

**monk** a man who separates himself from ordinary human society in order to dedicate himself to God; monks live in monasteries headed by abbots

**monasticism** practice of living the life of a monk

**pursue** to follow up or proceed with

A **monk** was one who sought to live a life cut off from ordinary human society in order to pursue an ideal of total dedication to God. The practice of living the life of a monk is known as **monasticism**. At first, Christian monasticism was based on the model of the solitary hermit who gives up all civilized society to **pursue** a spiritual life.

These early monks, however, soon found themselves unable to live by themselves. Their feats of holiness attracted followers on a wide scale. As the monastic ideal spread, a new form of monasticism based upon living together in a community became the chief form. The monastic community came to be seen as the ideal Christian society that could provide a moral example to the rest of society.

Benedict, who founded a monastic house for which he wrote a set of rules, established the basic form of monastic life in the western Christian church. The Benedictine rule came to be used by other monastic groups and was crucial to the growth of monasticism in the western Christian world.

Benedict's rule divided each day into a series of activities with primary emphasis upon prayer and manual labor. Physical work was required of all monks for several hours a day because idleness was "the enemy of the soul." At the heart of community practice was prayer, the proper "Work of God." This included private meditation and reading, and all monks gathered together seven times a day for prayer and chanting of psalms. Life in the monastery was a communal one. Monks ate, worked, slept, and worshiped together.



► The Franks Casket, which was likely created in a monastery in Northumbria, England, in the first half of the 8th century A.D., includes the depiction of both pagan and Christian stories.

#### ► CRITICAL THINKING

**Drawing Conclusions** Why did a casket that was created at a Christian monastery contain images of pagan legends?

Each Benedictine monastery was strictly ruled by an abbot, or "father" of the monastery, who had complete authority over it. Unquestioning obedience to the will of the abbot was expected of each monk. Each Benedictine monastery held lands that enabled it to be a self-sustaining community. Within the monastery, however, monks were to fulfill a vow of poverty.

Monasticism was an important force in the new European civilization. Monks became the new heroes of Christian civilization, and their dedication to God became the highest ideal of Christian life. They were the social workers of their communities: Monks provided schools for the young, hospitality for travelers, and hospitals for the sick. Monasteries also became centers of learning. Monks passed on the legacy of the ancient world to European civilization.

By the ninth century, the work required of Benedictine monks was the copying of manuscripts. Many monasteries contained a scriptorium, or writing room, where monks copied not only the works of early Christianity, such as the Bible, but also the works of Latin classical authors. Monks also developed new ways of producing books. Their texts were written on pages made of parchment or sheepskin rather than papyrus. They were then bound in covers decorated with jewels and precious metals. The use of parchment made books very expensive. The making of manuscripts was a crucial factor in the preservation of the ancient legacy. Virtually 90 percent of the ancient Roman works that we have today exist because they were copied by monks.

The monks were also important in spreading Christianity to the entire European world. English and Irish monks were particularly enthusiastic **missionaries** who undertook the **conversion** of non-Christian peoples, especially in German lands.

Women, too, played an important role in the monastic missionary movement. Like monks, women, called **nuns**, also began to withdraw from the world to dedicate themselves to God. Nuns lived in convents headed by **abbesses**. Many of the abbesses belonged to royal houses, especially in Anglo-Saxon England. For example, in the kingdom of Northumbria, Abbess Hilda founded the monastery of Whitby in 657.

Nuns of the seventh and eighth centuries were especially active in the spread of Christianity. Nuns in England provided books and money for missionary activities. Groups of nuns established convents in newly converted German lands. A nun named Leoba established the first convent in Germany.

#### ✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Describing** What was the Benedictine rule?

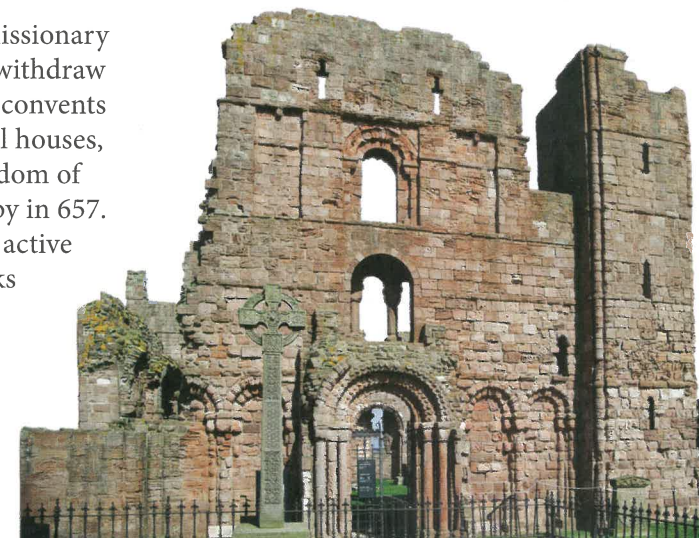
**missionary** a person sent out to carry a religious message

**conversion** the change from one belief or form to another

**nun** a woman who separates herself from ordinary human society in order to dedicate herself to God; nuns live in convents headed by abbesses

**abbess** the head of a convent

▼ Bishop Aidan founded a monastery in Lindisfarne in 635. The ruins of Lindisfarne Priory in England remain partially intact.



## LESSON 3 REVIEW



### Reviewing Vocabulary

1. **Identifying** What rules did Benedict set up for those who practiced monasticism?

### Using Your Notes

2. **Comparing** Use your notes to identify similarities between monks and nuns.

### Answering the Guiding Questions

3. **Organizing** How was the Christian Church organized by the fourth century?

4. **Drawing Conclusions** What role did monks and monasteries play in the early Catholic Church?

5. **Making Connections** How did the Catholic Church affect the emerging medieval European civilization?

### Writing Activity

6. **NARRATIVE** Pretend that you have just joined a medieval monastic community. Write an essay describing your daily life and your duties. Use outside sources to supplement information from the text.



There's More Online!

- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Charlemagne
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Charles Martel
- ✓ CHART/GRAPH Germanic Law
- ✓ IMAGE Charlemagne's Coronation
- ✓ IMAGE Clovis's Conversion
- ✓ IMAGE Illuminated Manuscript from the Court School of Charlemagne
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ MAP Frankish Kingdom
- ✓ MAP Territory of the Germanic Peoples, A.D. 500
- ✓ VIDEO The Age of Charlemagne

Reading **HELPS** 

Academic Vocabulary

- **excluded**
- **ensure**

Content Vocabulary

- **wergild**
- **ordeal**

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Details

**Determining Importance** As you read, use a table like the one below to identify the contributions of the rulers discussed in the lesson.

| Clovis | Charlemagne |
|--------|-------------|
|        |             |
|        |             |
|        |             |



LESSON 4

The Age of Charlemagne

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS** • How can religion impact a culture?  
• What factors lead to the rise and fall of empires?

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Although Christianity was becoming the dominant religion in Europe during the Early Middle Ages, Germanic tribes became the dominant political force. Ultimately a new empire emerged that was linked to the idea of a lasting Roman Empire.

The New Germanic Kingdoms

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** How did the Germanic kingdoms influence the transformation of the Roman world? What was the significance of Clovis's conversion to Christianity?

The Germanic peoples had begun to move into the lands of the Roman Empire by the third century. The Visigoths occupied Spain and Italy until the Ostrogoths, another Germanic tribe, took control of Italy in the fifth century. By 500, the Western Roman Empire had been replaced by a number of states ruled by German kings. The merging of Romans and Germans took different forms in the various Germanic kingdoms.

Both the kingdom of the Ostrogoths in Italy and the kingdom of the Visigoths in Spain retained the Roman structure of government. However, a group of Germanic warriors came to dominate the considerably larger native populations and eventually **excluded** Romans from holding power.

Roman influence was even weaker in Britain. When the Roman armies abandoned Britain at the beginning of the fifth century, the Angles and Saxons, Germanic tribes from Denmark and northern Germany, moved in and settled there. Eventually, these peoples became the Anglo-Saxons.

The Kingdom of the Franks

Only one of the German states proved long lasting—the kingdom of the Franks. The Frankish kingdom was established by Clovis, a strong military leader who around A.D. 500 became the first Germanic ruler to convert to Catholic Christianity. At first, Clovis had

refused the pleas of his Christian wife to adopt Christianity as his religion. According to Gregory of Tours, a sixth-century historian, Clovis had remarked to his wife, "Your God can do nothing."

During a battle with another Germanic tribe, however, Clovis's army faced certain destruction. Clovis was reported to have cried out, "Jesus Christ...if you will give me victory over my enemies... I will believe in you and I will be baptized in your name." After he uttered these words, the enemy began to flee. Clovis soon became a Christian.

Clovis found that his conversion to Christianity won him the support of the Roman Catholic Church, as the Christian church in Rome was now known. Not surprisingly, the Catholic Church was eager to gain the friendship of a major ruler in the Germanic states.

By 510, Clovis had established a powerful new Frankish kingdom that stretched from the Pyrenees in the southwest to German lands—modern-day France and western Germany. He defeated the many Germanic tribes surrounding him and unified the Franks as a people. After Clovis's death, his sons followed Frankish custom and divided his newly created kingdom among themselves. The once-united Frankish kingdom came to be divided into three major areas.

Germanic Society

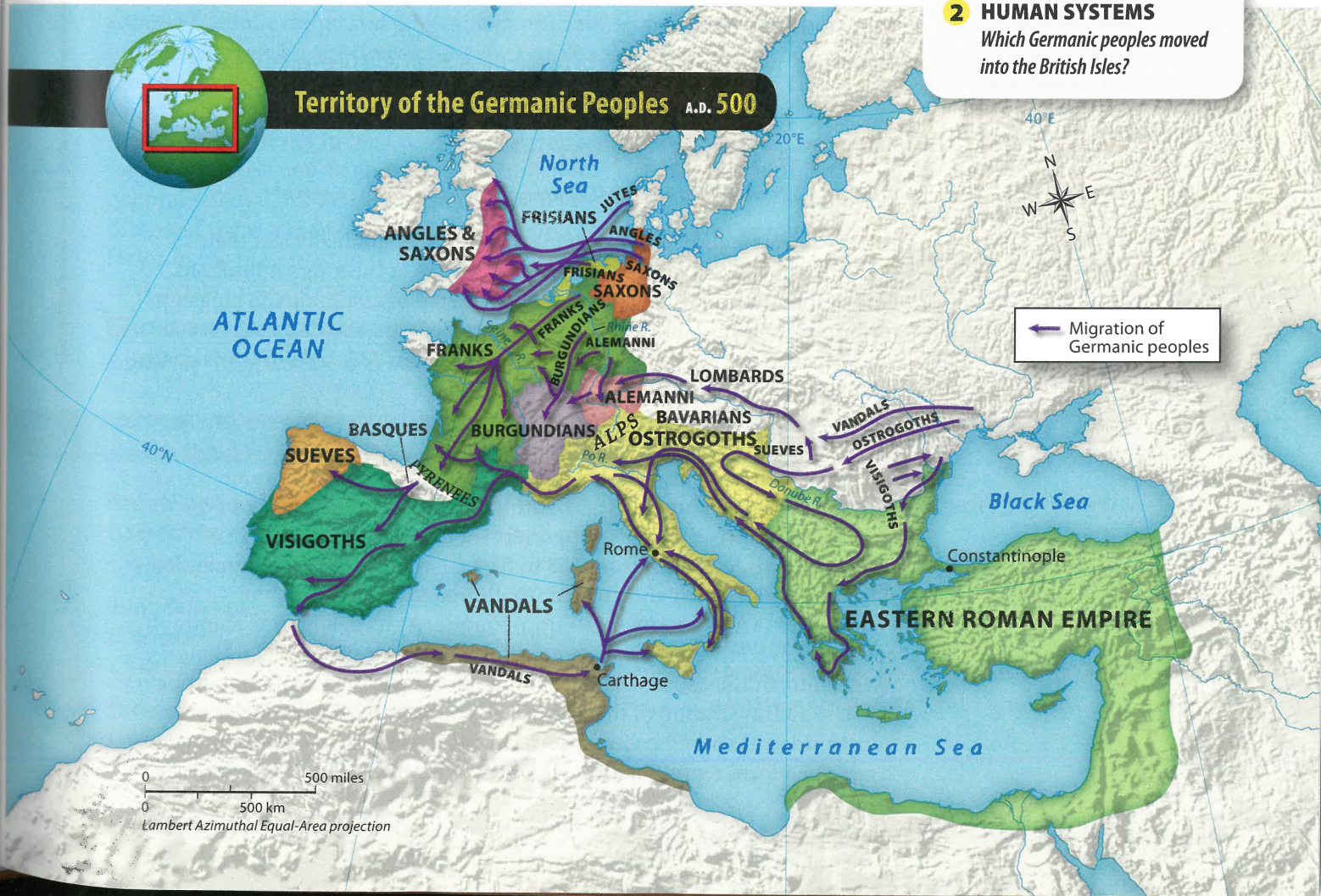
Over time, Germans and Romans intermarried and began to create a new society. As they did, some of the social customs of the Germanic people came to play an important role. The crucial social bond among the Germanic peoples was the family, especially the extended family of husbands, wives, children, brothers, sisters, cousins, and grandparents.

**exclude** to bar from inclusion or participation in

GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

The Germanic peoples migrated throughout Europe.

- 1 THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS** Which Germanic peoples came from around the Black Sea?
- 2 HUMAN SYSTEMS** Which Germanic peoples moved into the British Isles?





**wergild** “money for a man”; the value of a person in money, depending on social status; in Germanic society, a fine paid by a wrongdoer to the family of the person he or she had injured or killed

**ordeal** a means of determining guilt in Germanic law, based on the idea of divine intervention: if the accused person was unharmed after a physical trial, he or she was presumed innocent

The German family structure was quite simple. Males were dominant and made all the important decisions. A woman obeyed her father until she married and then fell under the legal domination of her husband. This extended family worked the land together and passed it down to future generations. The family also provided protection, which was much needed in the violent atmosphere of the time.

The German concept of family affected the way Germanic law treated the problem of crime and punishment. In the Roman system, as in the United States legal system, a crime such as murder was considered an offense against society or the state. Thus, a court would hear evidence and arrive at a decision. Germanic law, on the other hand, was personal. An injury by one person against another could mean a blood feud, and the feud could lead to savage acts of revenge.

To avoid bloodshed, a new system developed, based on a fine called **wergild** (WUHR • gihld). Wergild was the amount paid by a wrongdoer to the family of the person he or she had injured or killed. Wergild, which means “money for a man,” was the value of a person in money. The value varied according to social status. An offense against a member of the nobility, for example, cost considerably more than an offense against an ordinary person or a slave. Germanic laws were now established by custom, not at the whim of a king or codified like Roman law.

One means of determining guilt in Germanic law was the **ordeal**. The ordeal was based on the idea of divine intervention. All ordeals involved a physical trial of some sort, such as holding a red-hot iron. It was believed that divine forces would not allow an innocent person to be harmed. If the accused person was unharmed after a physical trial, or ordeal, he or she was presumed innocent.

#### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Contrasting** What is a difference between the Roman and Germanic systems of justice?

## The Carolingian Empire

**GUIDING QUESTION** What impact did Charlemagne have on the Frankish kingdom?

During the 600s and 700s, the Frankish kings had gradually lost their power to the mayors of the palace, chief officers of the king’s household. One of them, Pepin, finally took the logical step of assuming the kingship for himself and his family. Pepin was the son of Charles Martel, the leader who defeated the Muslims at the Battle of Tours in 732. Upon Pepin’s death in 768, his son became the new Frankish king.

This powerful ruler is known to history as Charles the Great, or Charlemagne. He was a determined and decisive man who was highly intelligent and curious. Charlemagne was a fierce warrior, a strong statesman, and a pious Christian. Although possibly unable to read or write, he was a wise patron—supporter—of learning.

During his long rule, from 768 to 814, Charlemagne greatly expanded the Frankish kingdom and created what came to be known as the Carolingian (KAR • uh • LIN • jee • uhn) Empire. At its height, this empire covered much of western and central Europe. Not until Napoleon Bonaparte’s time in the 1800s would an empire its size be seen again in Europe.

The administration of the empire depended both on Charlemagne’s household staff and on counts (German nobles) who acted as the king’s chief local representatives. In order to limit the counts’ powers,

Charlemagne set up the *missi dominici* (messengers of the lord king)—two men sent out to local districts to **ensure** that the counts carried out the king’s wishes.

## Charlemagne as Roman Emperor

As Charlemagne’s power grew, so too did his prestige as the most powerful Christian ruler. One monk even described Charlemagne’s empire as the “kingdom of Europe.” In 800, Charlemagne acquired a new title—emperor of the Romans. Charlemagne’s coronation as Roman emperor showed the strength of the idea of an enduring Roman Empire. After all, his coronation took place 300 years after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire.

The coronation also symbolized the joining of Roman, Christian, and Germanic elements. A Germanic king had been crowned emperor of the Romans by the pope, the spiritual leader of Western Christendom. Charlemagne had created an empire that stretched from the North Sea in the north to Italy in the south and from France in western Europe to Vienna in central Europe. This empire differed significantly from the Roman Empire, which encompassed much of the Mediterranean world. A new civilization had emerged. Should not Charlemagne be seen, as one author has argued, as the “father of Europe”?

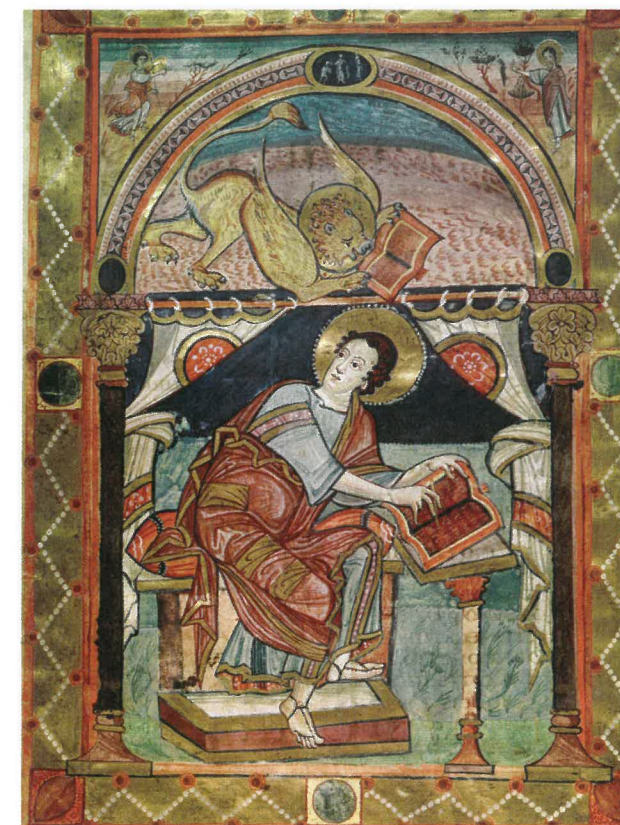
## Carolingian Renaissance

Charlemagne had a strong desire to promote learning in his kingdom. This desire stemmed from his own intellectual curiosity and from the need to educate Catholic clergy and government officials. His efforts led to an intellectual revival sometimes called the Carolingian Renaissance, or rebirth. This revival involved renewed interest in Latin culture and classical works—the works of the Greeks and Romans.

The monasteries in the Carolingian Empire, many of which had been founded by Irish and English missionaries, played a central role in this cultural renewal. As we have seen, monks in the writing rooms copied the Bible and the works of classical Latin authors. Their work was a crucial factor in the preservation of the ancient legacy. About eight thousand manuscripts survive from Carolingian times.

#### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Explaining** What was the importance of the *missi dominici*?



▲ An early example of an illuminated manuscript produced at the Court School of Charlemagne during the Carolingian Renaissance

#### CRITICAL THINKING

**Making Inferences** Why do you think monks elaborately decorated handwritten copies of the Bible?

**ensure** to make sure

## LESSON 4 REVIEW



### Reviewing Vocabulary

1. **Identifying** What was the difference between wergild and the ordeal?

### Using Your Notes

2. **Determining Importance** Use your notes to identify why Charlemagne and Clovis were considered important leaders.

### Answering the Guiding Questions

3. **Making Connections** How did Germanic kingdoms influence the transformation of the Roman world?

4. **Drawing Conclusions** What was the significance of Clovis’s conversion to Christianity?

5. **Identifying Central Issues** What impact did Charlemagne have on the Frankish kingdom?

### Writing Activity

6. **ARGUMENT** Write a persuasive essay about whether or not the wergild was a good way to punish wrongdoers.



## There's More Online!

- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Belisarius
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY John of Damascus
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Justinian
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Theodora
- ✓ IMAGE Mosaic of Justinian
- ✓ IMAGE Rebecca at the Well
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ MAP Byzantine Empire, 750–1025
- ✓ VIDEO The Byzantine Empire

## Reading HELPDESK



## Academic Vocabulary

- **legal**
- **enormous**

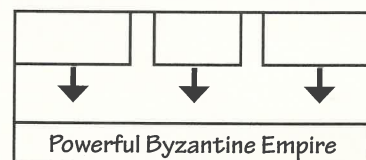
## Content Vocabulary

- **patriarch** • **icon**
- **idolatry**

## TAKING NOTES:

## Key Ideas and Details

**Determining Cause and Effect** As you read, use a diagram like the one below to identify the causes of a powerful Byzantine Empire.



## LESSON 5

## The Byzantine Empire

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS** • How can religion impact a culture?  
• What factors lead to the rise and fall of empires?

## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

*In the fourth century, a separation between the western and eastern parts of the Roman Empire began to develop. In the fifth century, the Germanic tribes moved into the western part of the empire and helped create a new European civilization. Meanwhile, the Eastern Roman Empire, with Constantinople as its capital, continued to exist and develop into a new empire.*

## Eastern Roman Empire and Justinian

**GUIDING QUESTION** How did the Eastern Roman Empire evolve into the Byzantine Empire?

When he became emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire, Justinian (527–565) was determined to reestablish the Roman Empire in the entire Mediterranean world. His army, led by Belisarius, probably the best general of the late Roman world, sailed into North Africa and then quickly moved into Italy and defeated the Ostrogoths.

By 552, Justinian appeared to have achieved his goals. He had restored the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean. His empire included Italy, part of Spain, North Africa, Asia Minor, Palestine, and Syria. But the conquest of the western empire was fleeting; only three years after Justinian's death, the Lombards conquered much of Italy, and other areas were soon lost.

Justinian's most important contribution was his codification of Roman law. The eastern empire had inherited a vast quantity of **legal** materials, which Justinian wished to simplify. The result was *The Body of Civil Law*. This codification of Roman law became the basis of imperial law in the Eastern Roman Empire until its end in 1453. More importantly, however, because it was written in Latin (it was, in fact, the last product of eastern Roman culture to be written in Latin, which was soon replaced by Greek) it was also used in the West and became the basis for much of the legal system of Europe.

✓ **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Assessing** What was the significance of *The Body of Civil Law*?

## From Roman to Byzantine Empire

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** How did the Eastern Roman Empire evolve into the Byzantine Empire?  
What were the cultural contributions of the Byzantine Empire?

Justinian's accomplishments had been spectacular, but the Eastern Roman Empire was left with serious problems: too much territory to protect far from Constantinople, an empty treasury, a decline in population after a plague, and renewed threats to its frontiers. In the first half of the seventh century, the empire was faced with attacks from the Persians to the east and the Slavs to the north. The empire survived, only to face new threats.

The most serious challenge to the Eastern Roman Empire came from the rise of Islam, which unified the Arab tribes and created a powerful new force that swept through the east. The defeat of an eastern Roman army at Yarmuk in 636 meant the loss of the provinces of Syria and Palestine. Problems also arose, however, along the northern frontier, especially in the Balkans. In 679 the Bulgars defeated the eastern Roman forces and took the lower Danube valley, creating a strong Bulgarian kingdom.

By the beginning of the eighth century, the Eastern Roman Empire was a much smaller state, consisting only of the eastern Balkans and Asia Minor, but these external challenges had produced important internal changes. By the eighth century, this smaller Eastern Roman Empire had become what historians call the Byzantine Empire, a civilization with its own unique character that lasted until 1453.

The Byzantine Empire was both a Greek and a Christian state. Increasingly, Latin fell into disuse as Greek became both the common language and the official language of the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine Empire was also a Christian state. The empire was built on the Christian faith that was shared in a profound way by almost all its citizens. An **enormous** amount of artistic talent was poured into the construction of churches, church ceremonies, and church decoration to honor this faith.

The emperor occupied a crucial position in the Byzantine state. Portrayed as chosen by God, he was crowned in sacred ceremonies, and his subjects were expected to prostrate themselves in his presence. His power was considered absolute. Because the emperor appointed the head of the church (known as the **patriarch**), he also exercised control over both church and state. The Byzantines believed that God had commanded their state to preserve the true Christian faith. Emperor, church officials, and state officials were all bound together in service to this ideal. It can be said that spiritual values truly held the Byzantine state together.

After the destruction caused by riots in 532, Emperor Justinian had rebuilt Constantinople and given it the appearance it would keep for almost a thousand years. With a population estimated in the hundreds of thousands, Constantinople was the largest city in medieval Europe. It viewed itself as the center of an empire and a special Christian city.

Until the twelfth century, Constantinople was the greatest center of commerce in Europe during the Middle Ages. The city was the chief center for the exchange of products between West and East. Highly desired in Europe were the products of the East: silk from China, spices from Southeast Asia and India, jewelry and ivory from India (the latter used by Byzantine craftsmen for church items), wheat and furs from southern Russia, and flax and honey from the Balkans. Many of these Eastern goods were then shipped to the Mediterranean area and northern Europe. Moreover, imported raw materials were used in Constantinople for local industries.

**legal** relating to law; founded on law

**enormous** huge; vast; immense

**patriarch** the head of the Eastern Orthodox Church, originally appointed by the Byzantine emperor

## Analyzing PRIMARY SOURCES

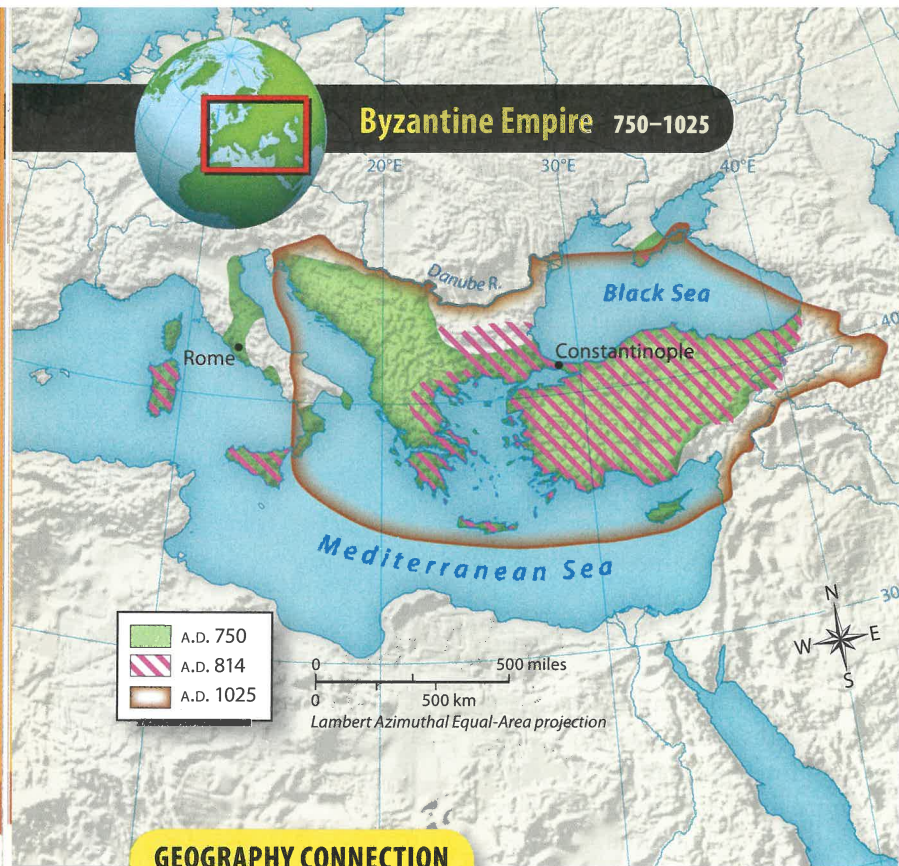
## The Justinian Code

“The maxims of law are these: to live honestly, to hurt no one, to give every one his due.”

—The Institutes of Justinian, 527–565 A.D.

**DBQ** **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** How do these maxims compare with the rule of law in the modern United States?





### GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

The size of the Byzantine Empire changed from A.D. 750–1025.

**1 THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS** In what year did the Byzantine Empire cover the least amount of territory?

**2 HUMAN SYSTEMS** What areas had the Byzantine Empire acquired by A.D. 1025?

In Justinian's reign, silkworms were smuggled from China by two Christian monks to begin a Byzantine silk industry. The state controlled the production of silk cloth. In fact, the workshops themselves were housed in Constantinople's royal palace. European demand for silk cloth made it the city's most lucrative product.

Much of Constantinople's appearance in the Early Middle Ages was due to Justinian's program of rebuilding in the sixth century. The city was dominated by an immense palace complex, hundreds of churches, and a huge arena known as the Hippodrome. No residential district was particularly fashionable because palaces, tenements, and slums existed alongside one another. Justinian added many new buildings. His public works projects included roads, bridges, walls, public baths, law courts, schools, churches, and colossal underground reservoirs to hold the city's water supply.

The Hippodrome was a huge amphitheater, constructed of brick covered by marble, holding between 40,000 and 60,000 spectators. Although gladiator fights were held there, the main events were the chariot races. Twenty-four would usually be presented in one day. The citizens of Constantinople were passionate fans of chariot racing, and successful charioteers were acclaimed as heroes and honored with public statues. The loss of a race in the Hippodrome frequently resulted in bloody riots.

### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Contrasting** How was the Byzantine Empire different from the Roman Empire?

## New Heights and New Problems

**GUIDING QUESTIONS** What role did the Christian Church play in the Byzantine Empire? What threats did the Byzantine Empire face in the eleventh century?

By 750, the Byzantine Empire consisted only of Asia Minor, some lands in the Balkans, and the coastal areas of Italy. Byzantium recovered and not only endured; it even expanded due to the efforts of a new dynasty of Byzantine emperors known as the Macedonians.

### The Macedonian Emperors

This line of emperors, who ruled from 867 to 1081, managed to beat off its external enemies and to go on the offensive. The empire was expanded to include Bulgaria in the Balkans, the islands of Crete and Cyprus, and Syria. By 1025, the Byzantine Empire was the largest it had been since the seventh century.

The Macedonian emperors also fostered a burst of economic prosperity by expanding trade relations with western Europe, especially by selling silks and metalworks. Thanks to this prosperity, the city of Constantinople flourished. Foreign visitors continued to be astounded by its size, wealth, and physical surroundings. To them, it was the stuff of legends and fables.

The Macedonian dynasty of the tenth and eleventh centuries had restored much of the power of the Byzantine Empire. However, its incompetent successors soon undid most of the gains. Power struggles between ambitious military leaders and aristocratic families led to political and social disorder in the late eleventh century.

### Schisms

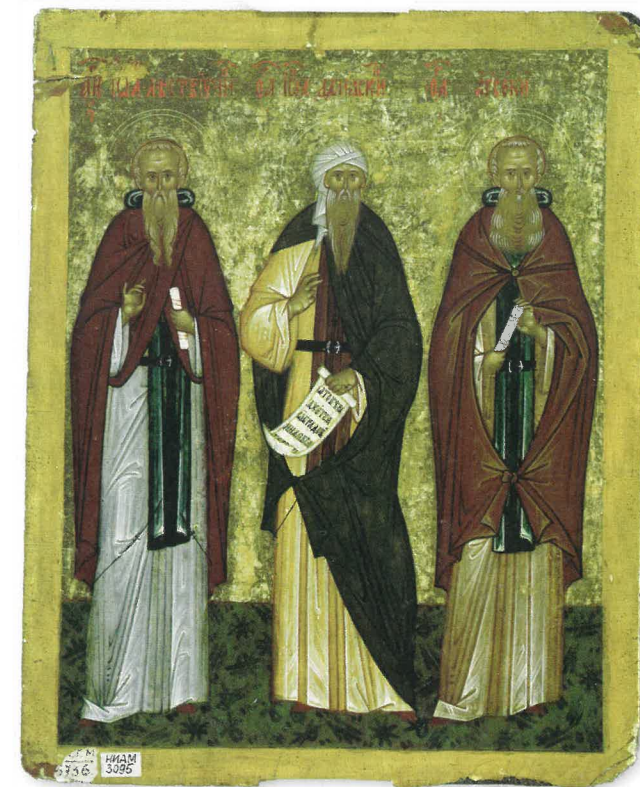
The Byzantine Empire had also been troubled by the growing split between the Catholic Church of the West and its own Eastern Orthodox Church. Trouble began in 730 when the Byzantine emperor Leo III outlawed the use of **icons** as **idolatry**. Resistance ensued, especially from monks, such as John of Damascus, who wrote defenses of the use of holy images. Roman Catholic popes also condemned this act. Late in the eighth century, the Byzantine emperors reversed their stand allowing icons, but the damage between the churches due to the Iconoclast controversy was done.

The Eastern Orthodox Church was unwilling to accept the pope's claim that he was the sole head of the church. In 1054 Pope Leo IX and the Patriarch Michael Cerularius, head of the Byzantine church, formally excommunicated each other—each took away the other's right of church membership. This began a schism, or separation, between the two great branches of Christianity that has not been completely healed.

The Byzantine Empire faced threats from abroad as well. The greatest challenge came from the advance of the Seljuk Turks who had moved into Asia Minor—the heartland of the empire and its main source of food and manpower. In 1071 a Turkish army defeated Byzantine forces at Manzikert. As a result, Emperor Alexus I turned to Europe for military aid to fight the Turks. This problem would lead to Byzantine involvement in the Crusades and help bring about the downfall of the Byzantine Empire.

### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Determining Cause and Effect** What effects did the expansion of trade have on the Byzantine Empire?



▲ John of Damascus, depicted at center, played an important role in the Iconoclast controversy.

### CRITICAL THINKING

**Analyzing** What role did John of Damascus play in the schism between Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches?

**icons** pictures of religious images

**idolatry** the worship of religious images

## LESSON 5 REVIEW



### Reviewing Vocabulary

**1. Inferring** How did the use of icons lead to a schism between the Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church?

### Using Your Notes

**2. Determining Cause and Effect** Use your notes to identify why a powerful Byzantine Empire developed.

### Answering the Guiding Questions

**3. Identifying Central Issues** How did the Eastern Roman Empire evolve into the Byzantine Empire?

**4. Drawing Conclusions** What were the cultural contributions of the Byzantine Empire?

**5. Analyzing** What role did the Christian church play in the Byzantine Empire?

**6. Making Connections** What threats did the Byzantine Empire face in the eleventh century?

### Writing Activity

**7. INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY** Write a brochure advertising the public works projects built by Justinian in the sixth century. Include details about what projects were built and how they were expected to improve the city.





Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions below. Make sure you read carefully and answer all parts of the questions.

### Lesson Review

#### Lesson 1

- 1 **IDENTIFYING CAUSE AND EFFECT** How did Jesus's teachings influence Western civilization? Be specific.
- 2 **PARAPHRASING** Explain why the Roman government under the reign of Nero began persecuting Christians.

#### Lesson 2

- 3 **MAKING INFERENCES** Why were the Severan rulers successful in keeping order in the Roman Empire?
- 4 **COMPARING** What theories explaining the fall of the Roman Empire give a reason based on a change in values?

#### Lesson 3

- 5 **EXPLAINING** What is monasticism, and how did it change over time? Explain its impact on society.
- 6 **IDENTIFYING** How did Christianity spread to German lands?

#### Lesson 4

- 7 **ANALYZING CAUSE AND EFFECT** What was an essential component of Germanic society? How did it influence its system of justice?
- 8 **DESCRIBING** What was the Carolingian Renaissance? How did this revival come to pass?

#### Lesson 5

- 9 **DETERMINING IMPORTANCE** What was Emperor Justinian's primary goal? How did he accomplish this goal?
- 10 **EXPLAINING** Why were the Macedonian emperors significant in the life of the Byzantine Empire?

### 21st Century Skills

- 11 **IDENTIFYING PERSPECTIVES** What similar experiences led rulers Constantine and Clovis to embrace Christianity?

### Need Extra Help?

| If You've Missed Question | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Go to page                | 151 | 153 | 155 | 158 | 160 | 160 | 163 | 165 | 166 | 168 | 154 | 156 | 167 | 170 | 170 | 169 |

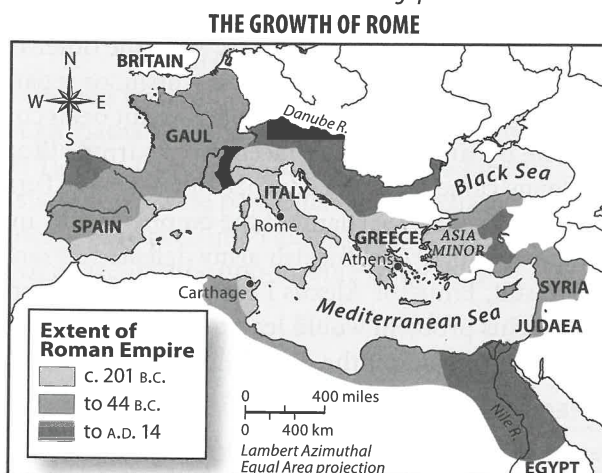
- 12 **ECONOMICS** What role did Constantinople play in medieval Europe's economy until the twelfth century?

### DBQ Exploring the Essential Questions

- 13 **CATEGORIZING** Create a time line that includes major events showing the impact of religion on the Byzantine Empire and major events that caused the decline of the empire. Illustrate at least three of the events with images, maps, or quotes from primary sources. Be prepared to present your time line and to explain under which category each event falls and why.

### DBQ Analyzing Historical Documents

Use the document to answer the following questions.



- 14 **LOCATING** Around what body of water did the Roman Empire expand?
- 15 **EXAMINING** What region in Africa was added to the Roman Empire between 44 B.C. and A.D. 14?

### DBQ Extended-Response Question

- 16 **INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY** Describe the causes and effects of the bans on icons issued by Byzantine emperors and the eventual schism between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

# Islam and the Arab Empire

600–1400

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS** • How can religion influence the development of an empire? • How might religious beliefs affect society, culture, and politics?



networks

There's More Online! about Islam and the Arab Empire.

## CHAPTER 9

### Lesson 1

The First Muslims

### Lesson 2

The Arab Empire and the Caliphates

### Lesson 3

Islamic Civilization

## The Story Matters...

As Muslim armies spread Islam beyond the Arabian Peninsula from the seventh century onward, the new faith came into contact with older civilizations. Under the caliphates, Muslim scholars helped to both preserve and advance the work of the ancient Greeks in philosophy, science, mathematics, and other areas of thought. Islamic thinkers also made significant original contributions to the sciences. The *Canon of Medicine* by the eleventh-century Persian philosopher and scientist Ibn Sina was one of the most influential works in medical history.

◀ Known to Europeans as Avicenna, Ibn Sina remained a medical authority in both the Islamic world and the West for centuries after his death. Of unknown date, this dignified French portrait of Ibn Sina, although an imagined likeness, reflects the respect with which he was regarded by Europeans.

PHOTO: Archives Charmet/Bridgeman Art Library